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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICES

In regard to international application:

Serial No. PCT/BR2002/000152
Applicant: Luiz Roberto Martins Miranda et al.
Filing Date: November 13, 2002
Title: NIOBIUM-BASED COMPOSITIONS AND COATINGS,
NIOBIUM OXIDES AND THEIR ALLOYS APPLIED BY
THERMAL SPRAYING AND THEIR USE AS AN
ANTICORROSIVE

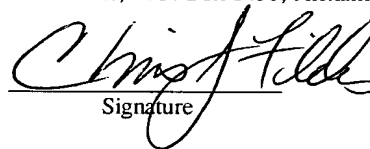
Attorney Docket No. 10008.006

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail ED894245633US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

February 23, 2005
Date of Deposit

Christopher J. Fildes
Registered Attorney


Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with entry into the National Phase in the United States of the above referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

In The Claims:

Amend claims 3 and 4 and add new claims 5-7 as follows:

1. (original) "Niobium-Based Compositions and Coatings, Niobium Oxides and Their Alloys Applied by Thermal Spraying" characterized by applying niobium, its oxides and alloys such as Ni-Nb, Fe-Nb, HNb, among others, obeying the